

Project Code and Title

SPECIAL CRASH INVESTIGATIONS (SCI)

Project Objective

To provide the flexibility to acquire detailed engineering information quickly on high visibility traffic crashes of special interest which fall outside the established scope or criteria of other agency crash data systems.

Background

The SCI program is the agency's sole resource for examining the safety impact of rapidly changing technology (such as air bags and alternative fuel systems) and for exploring alleged or potential vehicle defects. It helps the agency achieve its performance goals by responding to crash investigation requests from internal agency customers (Safety Performance Standards, Safety Assurance, and Research and Development), and by fostering improvements in new technologies to enhance traffic safety.

Problem Definition

SCI data are critical to understanding real-world motor vehicle crash performance and the injury risk as a function of crash severity. Data are obtained for comparison of these risks from assessment of the damage to crash involved motor vehicles, assessment of the performance of motor vehicle occupant safety devices such as air bags, and documentation of injuries sustained by crash victims.

Research Approach

The SCI is a quick reaction crash investigation activity in which an investigator is sent to the crash site when NHTSA learns of serious air bag crashes or other special interests cases. SCI data are critical to understanding real-world air bag performance.

Key Milestones

The performance measures for NHTSA includes creation of an electronic data file for SCI by the annual target dates of June.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
Contract Money (\$K)	315	331	556	556	556

Project Manager(s)

Gary Toth - SCI Field Data Collection
Marvin Stephens - Data Quality and Data Processing Support

Completion Date

See Project Tasks below.

Publications

1. Air Bag Crash Investigations (1994)
Richard T. Reed, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
2. Air Bag Crash Investigation Reports
- Available from Zimmerman Associates, Inc. Rosslyn, VA

Keywords: Air bags, alternative fuel vehicles, leading edge technology, injuries, and vehicle damage.

Project Tasks

<u>Task</u>	<u>Title and Description</u>
Task 1	Eastern SCI Zone - data collection, documentation, quality control
Task 2	Central SCI Zone - data collection, documentation, quality control
Task 3	Western SCI Zone - data collection, documentation, quality control
Task 4	NASS and Special Crash Investigations (SCI) Field and Data Processing Support

Task	Start Date	Projected Completion Date	Status/Responsibility
#1	FY94	FY98	Active; Calspan Corporation
#2	FY94	FY98	Active; Indiana University
#3	FY94	FY98	Active; Dynamic Science, Inc.
#4	FY94	FY98	Active; Information Dynamics, Inc.

Supporting Contracts

Task	Contract Number	COTR (phone)	Contracting Officer (phone)	Total Contract Cost (\$K)
#1	DTNH22-94-D-07058	Richard Reed	Pete Shultz	
#2	DTNH22-94-D-17058	Richard Reed	Pete Shultz	
#3	DTNH22-94-D-27058	Richard Reed	Pete Shultz	
#4	DTNH22-94-C-07257	Marvin Stephens	Doris Medley	